

Calais 31 March 1848.

My dear Sir,

I have the honor to report for  
your satisfaction in forming that the rate  
for passage of despatched British Subjects  
by the General Steam Navigation Company's  
Packets from hence to London has been  
fixed by them at 6/ of each person, which is  
considerably high, but still it is far less  
expensive than sending them to London, (where  
they would all have to go) by way of Dover.  
The first agreement I had with the  
Company's Agents was 4/ and at that  
rate I had continued to send them, until  
on Wednesday last, having been in  
communication with the Company, on

the night of the 24<sup>th</sup>

Viscount Palmerston V.C.

Foreign Office.

the subject I received a letter from the Secy  
informing me that if was the lowest  
rate the board would agree to. I went  
down on Thursday morning at that  
increased rate, and unless I hear from  
your Lordship to the contrary must continue  
to do so. There are very many more, some  
hundreds probably, to go from St Pierre  
and other unfortunate individuals, &  
families are arriving almost daily from  
Lille, Dunkerque and other places, and  
were I to keep them here until a  
sufficient number were got together  
to render it worth while to request a ship  
from the Admiralty, the expence would  
unquestionably be greater than that  
now incurred in sending them over as  
rapidly as possible after arrival, were

at the rate now charged. By the  
sacks the number sent by me has averaged  
but 80 each packet.  
The reports which those arriving from Lille  
give of the state of affairs there are very  
disastrous: the town and neighbourhood  
appear to be wholly in a state of anarchy,  
overwhelmed by arrivals of revolutionaries  
of the lowest class from Paris on their  
way to Belgium: a proceeding in which  
they appear to have encountered an  
opposition they by no means anticipated  
amongst other disasters a body of 1500  
fell in and had a skirmish with some  
Belgian troops near Mouscron, in  
which about 200 <sup>(4th June)</sup> were shot. The English  
have been obliged to leave Lille, without  
personal ill treatment, the mob threaten

to burn the factories of those who  
employed them. the same is reported of  
Tourenay and other places.

All those who chose to work here had an  
employment at 25 centimes and a 4<sup>th</sup> loaf  
a day equivalent altogether about  
15 sous a <sup>2</sup> ~~laborer~~ <sup>laborer</sup>. They are employed digging  
on the common about a mile & half  
from the town, said to be leveling a place  
for a cemetery, but I imagine they are  
merely put there to keep them out of  
the way. They would certainly be better  
employed on the railroad which is at  
a stand the contractor having it is said  
no money. I have the honor to be, my dear  
with the highest respects

Yours Ludicrous most obedient

servant

Edw. Walter Pombois